



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2019

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 105,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2019, down 10,000 acres, or 9 percent from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 65,000 acres, is down 5,000 acres from a year ago. Growers intend to plant 810,000 acres of **barley** in 2019, up 20,000 acres from last year's actual plantings. **All wheat** acreage is expected to total 5.08 million acres for 2019. **Winter wheat** seeded last fall for harvest in 2019 is estimated at 1.90 million acres, up 250,000 acres from the 2018 crop. Growers intend to seed 580,000 acres of **Durum wheat** this year, down 260,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.60 million acres of **spring wheat** this year, down 300,000 acres from last year. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 2.90 million acres this year. This is unchanged from the acreage cut for hay in 2018. Montana **canola** producers intend to plant 140,000 acres in 2019, up 20,000 acres from 2018. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 55,000 acres in 2019, up 16,000 acres from last year. The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be up 3,300 acres from last year's actual plantings to 46,800 acres. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 235,000 acres, down 155,000 acres from 2018. The acreage of small chickpeas is expected to total 45,000 acres and the acreage of large chickpeas is expected to total 190,000 acres this year.

Lentil acres planted for 2019 are expected to total 300,000 acres, down 200,000 acres from last year. All **dry edible pea** area planted, which includes Austrian winter peas, is expected to total 445,000 acres, up 110,000 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2019 is estimated at 92.8 million acres, up 4 percent or 3.66 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 34 of the 48 estimating States.

Area seeded to **oats** for the 2019 crop year is estimated at 2.56 million acres, down 7 percent from 2018. If realized, the United States planted area will be the second lowest on record.

Producers intend to seed 2.55 million acres of **barley** for the 2019 crop year, up slightly from the previous year.

All wheat planted area for 2019 is estimated at 45.8 million acres, down 4 percent from 2018. This represents the lowest all wheat planted area on record since records began in 1919. The 2019 **winter wheat** planted area, at 31.5 million acres, is down 3 percent from last year but up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 22.4 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 5.55 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.55 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to **other spring wheat** for 2019 is estimated at 12.8 million acres, down 3 percent from 2018. Of this total, about 12.4 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum** planted area for 2019 is estimated at 1.42 million acres, down 31 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 53.1 million acres of **all hay** in 2019, up less than 1 percent from 2018. If realized, this will represent the third lowest total hay harvested area since 1908, behind 2017 and 2018.

Canola producers intend to plant 1.90 million acres in 2019, down 4 percent from last year's planted area. Despite the decline, planted area for the Nation will be the third highest on record, if realized.

Growers intend to plant 345,000 acres of **flaxseed**, up 137,000 acres or 66 percent more than was planted in 2018.

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Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2019 crop year is estimated at 1.12 million acres, up 1 percent from 2018. Intended plantings are above the previous year in 7 of the 11 estimating States.

Expected area planted for **all chickpeas** is 519,000 acres, down 40 percent from last season. **Small chickpea** intentions, at 137,000 acres, are 38 percent below 2018, while **large chickpeas**, at 382,000 acres, are expected to decrease 40 percent from the previous year. If realized, small, large, and all chickpea acreage will be at their lowest level since 2016.

Area planted to **lentils** for the 2019 crop year is expected to total 555,000 acres, down 29 percent from 2018.

Area planted to **dry edible peas** for the 2019 crop year is expected to total 881,000 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Beginning in 2019, Austrian winter peas and wrinkled seed peas are included in the dry edible pea estimates.

For a full copy of the *Prospective Plantings* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.